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PAGE 01 STATE 002248

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SUDAN: WAS MPLA RECOGNITION A PLOY FOR RUSSIAN ARMS?

EMBASSY KHARTOUM FINDS UNCONVINCING MOST OF SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S EXPLANATIONS OF HIS SUDDEN RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA. THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT NIMEIRI, IN ADDITION TO JOINING WHAT HE SAW AS A TREND, MAY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO:

--INCREASE THE FLOW OF RUSSIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO KEEP THE BACKING OF THE ARMY; AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 002248

--RENEW SUPPORT AMONG SUDANESE LEFTISTS AT A TIME WHEN OTHER SECTORS OF OPINION APPEAR TO BE TURNING AWAY FROM HIM. (SECRET) KHARTOUM 21, 1/5.)

2. ITALY: WHO BENEFITS FROM THE CRISIS?

SPECULATION HAS ALREADY BEGUN ABOUT THE IMPACT ON THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF A SOCIALIST WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT FOR THE GOI. EMBASSY ROME FEELS THAT ONE LIKELY EFFECT IS ALREADY CLEAR: A CRISIS AT THIS STAGE WILL BENE-

FIT THE PARTY'S TRADITIONAL LEADERS, AS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE THREAT OF EARLY ELECTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 123, 1/5.)

3. THAILAND: COUP UNLIKELY

DESPITE WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE KHUKRIT REGIME, PARTICULARLY IN THE MILITARY, EMBASSY BANGKOK FEELS THAT A COUP IS UNLIKELY UNLESS THE POLITICAL SITUATION WORSENS CONSIDERABLY. FACTORS WORKING AGAINST A COUP ARE:

--THE CERTAINTY THAT ANY ATTEMPT WOULD BE MET WITH STRONG AND POSSIBLY BLOODY RESISTANCE FROM STUDENTS, LABOR, AND THE POLITICAL LEFT;

--THE ABSENCE OF ANY POTENTIAL PLOTTER WHO HAS BOTH THE DESIRE AND THE BROAD SUPPORT NECESSARY; AND

--AWARENESS BY MILITARY DISSIDENTS UNHAPPY WITH THE US TROOP WITHDRAWAL THAT A COUP ATTEMPT WOULD PROBABLY ONLY ACCELERATE THAT WITHDRAWAL.

NEVERTHELESS, THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT IS ENTERING A CRITICAL PERIOD. LEGISLATORS HAVE AGREED TO DEBATE A MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE BUT KHUKRIT'S GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO SURVIVE WITH A MAJORITY OF 10 TO 20 VOTES. HOWEVER, IF THE GOVERNMENT UNEXPECTEDLY FALLS, THE CHANCES OF A MILITARY TAKEOVER
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 002248

WILL INCREASE. (SECRET) BANGKOK 176, 1/5.)

4. TURKISH IMMIGRATION TO NORTHERN CYPRUS

EMBASSY NICOSIA REPORTS THAT CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES HAS ACCUSED TURKEY OF FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTER OF CYPRUS, ALLEGING THAT:

--THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SETTLE ANOTHER 20,000 MAINLAND TURKS ON CYPRUS IN ADDITION TO THE 20,000 HE CLAIMS ARRIVED RECENTLY.

--THE GOAL IS TO BOOST THE TURKISH POPULATION ON THE ISLAND TO 160,000 WHILE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE ARE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT AT LEAST 10,000 MAINLAND TURKS HAVE SETTLED IN NORTHERN CYPRUS AND THAT IMMIGRATION CONTINUES, BUT CANNOT CONFIRM THAT THE

TOTAL HAS RISEN TO 20,000. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE TURKS COULD BRING IN AN ADDITIONAL 20,000 IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME OR HIDE SUCH A MASSIVE INFLUX FOR VERY LONG. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 30, 1/5.)

5. CHILE RESTLESS BUT IMMEDIATE CHANGE UNLIKELY

EMBASSY SANTIAGO CONSIDERS THE STRAINS IN THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT SERIOUS BUT DOUBTS THAT A CRISIS IS IMMINENT. NEVERTHELESS, ALTHOUGH UNABLE TO CONFIRM A LONDON SUNDAY TIMES STORY THAT TEN GENERALS DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET, THE EMBASSY OBSERVES THAT UNEASINESS IN CHILE IS GROWING BECAUSE:

--THE GOVERNMENT'S DRASTIC BUT INEFFECTIVE AUSTERITY PROGRAM IS CAUSING HARDSHIP.

--CHILEANS ARE REALIZING THAT CHILE IS DANGEROUSLY ISOLATED INTERNATIONALLY.

--INTERNAL REPRESSION IS A CONSTANT IRRITANT.

SECRET

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PAGE 04 STATE 002248

--AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL LEIGH HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY ANTAGONISTIC TOWARD PINOCHET. (SECRET) SANTIAGO 61, 1/5.)

6. LEBANON: PATRIARCH ACTS AS MODERATE MARONITE FORCE

EMBASSY BEIRUT COMMENTS THAT MARONITE PATRIARCH KHREISH IS EMERGING AS AN IMPORTANT FORCE FOR POLITICAL RECONCILIATION AT A TIME WHEN OTHER MARONITE LEADERS HAVE ADOPTED A HARD LINE. PATRIARCH KHREISH:

--RECEIVED RAYMOND EDDE WHO ECHOED THE PATRIARCH'S CALL TO REGROUP ALL THE FORCES OF THE NATION;

--CONFIDED TO AMBASSADOR GODLEY THAT EDDE WAS ELO-

QUENT ABOUT WHAT HE HAD "LEARNED" IN THE US ABOUT OUR
VIEW OF PARTITION;

--PRIVATELY CONDEMNED THE DEEP INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER
MARONITE MONKS IN LEBANESE POLITICAL MATTERS;

--IS EXPECTED BY SOME TO FORM A "MODERATE MARONITE
FRONT."

THE AMBASSADOR'S DENIAL THAT THERE WAS ANY US SUPPORT FOR
PARTITION WAS GRACIOUSLY BRUSHED ASIDE BY THE PATRIARCH.
AMBASSADOR GODLEY AGAIN RECOMMENDS PUBLIC REBUTTAL OF
EDDE'S CHARGES OF US INDIFFERENCE ABOUT POSSIBLE PARTITION
OF LEBANON. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 70 AND 72, 1/5.) KISSINGER

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